## COLITMBIA

## Occupation of the Capital of South Carolina.

Beauregard Officially Announces that Sherman Reached the City on February 17.

## CHARLESTON IS BEING EVACUATED.

The Rebels Admit that the Occupation of Columbia Necessitates the Fall of Charleston.

It is Presumed that Sherman Will Make Charleston His Base.

Rumored Capture of Augusta, Georgia.

No General Engagement Has Occurred.

REBEL ACCOUNTS OF SHERMAN'S PROGRESS.

### THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

retary Stanton to Major General Dix. WAR DEPARTMENT, }
WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1865.

Major General Dix, New York-

The announcement of the occupation of Colum-Ma, S. C., by General Sherman, and the probable ion of Charleston, has been communicated to the department in the following telegrams just received from Lieutenant General Grant.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

ral Grant to Secretary Stanton. CITY POINT, Feb, 18-4:45 P. M. M. STANTON, War Department:-

hmond Dispatch of this morning says n entered Columbia yesterday morning. i its fall necessitates, it presumes, the fall of lon, which it thinks is already being U. S. GRANT.

> Lieutenant General. ARCOND DESPATCH.

CITT POINT, Va., Feb. 18, 1865. Hos. E. M. STANTON, War Department:-

The following is taken from to-day's Richmond

gard inan official despatch. Columbia is situated on the north bank of the Conga ree river, just below the confluence of the Saluda and

From General Beauregard's despatch it appears that on Thurstay evening the enemy approached the south bank of the Congaree and threw a number of into the city. During the night they moved up the river, and yesterday morning forded the Saluda and Broad ivers. While they were crossing these rivers our troops, under General Beauregard, evacuated Columbia. The enemy soon after took possess

Through private sources we learn that two days ago when it was decided not to attempt the defence of lumbia, a large quantity of medical stores, which it was thought itwas impossible to remove, were destroyed The female employes of the Treasury Department had been previously sent off to Charlotte, N. C., a hundred miles north of Columbia. We presume the Treasury Mithographic establishment was also removed, although as to this we have to positive information.

The fall of Columbia necessitates, we presume, th magnation of Charleston, which we think likely is al-

It is impossible to say where Sherman will next direct his columns. The general opinion is that he will go to on and establish a base there; but we confess we do not see what need he has of a base. It is to be pre gamed he is subsisting on the country, and he has had battle to exhaust his ammunition. Before leaving his, thence to Augusta and thence to Charleston. This uttered as a boast and to hide his designs. We are dis ha bundred miles porth of Columbia, on the Charlott and Columbia Railroad, or at Plorence, S. C., the junctio of the Columbia and Wimington and the Charlesto and Wilmington railroads, some ninety miles east of

There was a report yesterday that Augusta had also be taken by the enemy. This we do not believe.

We have reason to feel assured that nearly the who of Sherman's army is at Columbia, and that the report Bes Schofield was advancing on Augusta was untrue. The Richmond Whig save:-

sion of that paper, with a view to its temporary renel to another point. This is rendered necessary by the progress of military events, cutting it off from the mail sties for distributing its paper to a large portion of He subscribers, while the lack of transportation renders Se supply of paper precarious. Semmes has been made a rear admiral, and will

take command of the James river squadron. U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

## REBEL ACCOUNTS.

The Movement on Columbia. (From the Richmond Examiner, Feb. 16.)

## THE HEART OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Occupation of Columbia, the State Capital---Probable Evacuation Charleston.



general belief that Sherman had cut loose from Branch the Columbia and Charlotte and Wilmington and Manchester Railroads at one and the same time. But this to

We have but little that is substantial in these specula ions beyond the general fact that Sherman's main force has turned Branchville, and has probably got as far as Orangeburg, on the Columbia road. The bridge across our troops in the face of Sherman's advance, is four mile on the east of Midway, and directly on the route to

It is probable that the movements on the road between Branchville and Augusta are merely those of de-tachments of cavairy and raiding parties. The main portion of the enemy's army is, undoubt-edly, that which has demonstrated upon Branch-ville. Sherman, adventurous as he is, will hardly attempt the simultaneous capture of Charleston, August and Columbia. But it may be, if he is permitted to hold Branchville, he will determine at his lessure whether to move his main force upon Columbia or Augusta, or to take

of operations.

A Columbia paper of Sunday last says that Gen Beauregard and staff, consisting of Colonel Otey, Colone Rice, Captain Beauregard, Captain Ferry and Dr. Brodie had arrived in that city, and were stopping at Nickerson

Hotel there. and are slowly pushing forward towards the north branc his movement is made for the double purpose of cuttin the Columbia and Charlestop road and Wilmington and Manchester road at or near Kingsville. This, however, s speculation; and the facts are only those which we stated, in another and official form, some days ago.

We learned at a late hour last night that a despate had been received here in one of the offices of the govern-ment stating that the local force in Columbia had been ordered out, and that skirmishing was going on with the enemy in the vicinity of that city. The despatch is dated

The Cavalry Movement Against Augusta URTHER PARTICULARS OF THE CAVALRY BATTLE

[From the Augusta Chronicle, Feb. 10.] The federals on Thursday morning were at Windsor, about fifteen miles from Alken. It is not known in what force. No movements were made by them on Thursday.

gaged the enemy on the 7th and 8th, repulting them at all points. Our loss about seventy killed, wounded and nissing; that of the enemy much greater.

The enemy are reported to be moving towards the

s moving on that city on this side of the Edisto. His nain line, when last heard from, was on the railroad. It is stated in Columbia that Kilpatrick's corps is pre-

It is ascertained that Porter is again moving on Charle ton. When hat heard from he was at Green Pond. Barnwell court house was burned on Monday night. The roads are teeming with vehicles, stock and all kinds of movable property, deeing for Georgia and upper

Anticipations Which Were Doomed to

Disappointment.

[Prom the Columbia (8. C.) Carolinian, Feb. 12.]

The facts, briefly, are that a portion of the enemy's ferry, and are slowly pushing forward towards the north branch of that river. The probabilities, briefly,

are that this movement is made for the double purpose of cutting the Columbia and Charleston coad and Wilmington and Manchester road at or near Kingsville.

This done Sherman will have achieved what he
may deem an important object preliminary to
the capture of Charleston—namely, the bisection of three important branches of supply. That he will army in the hands of Beauregard; but admitting Sherto anticipate an immediate advance on Columbia? We prise, but beyond these attractive features it is nothing compared to the grander game of Charles-ton, on the capture of which the energies of the whole Yankee army below us are now bent. They will not leave Columbia on a northward march while Charleston stands. To believe it is contrary to comme and confessed determination, and contrary to all military strategy. Possibly a raid may be made here for the pur

wictory commensurate in its consequences with the great interests now at stake—one which will prove that "God is fighting by our side, although with visor down," and that he has couchsafed to South Carolina the proud privi-lege of closing as she began this war—in triumph.

The Valiant South Carolinians Propose to Let Sherman Alone if He Will Only

(From the Columbia Carolinian, Feb. 11.1 Whether Sherman's objective point is Augusta Charleston, Columbia or Richmond, or all four, does is certain, that every mile of ground the federal army and attacked at the proper time—is so much gai We have troops, our generals are watchful, and we firmly believe that within twenty days there will be such a concentration of strength and assault as will make the Yanke commander tremble for his safety. He may be permitted to move on our railroads and to penetrate our interior, but these triumphs must be short. The condition of the ountry will compel him to go forward or back, and country will compet nim to go forward or oacs, and that right quickly. If he comes forward, a reception awaits him unlike that which he encountered in his career through Georgia; if he goes to Charleston, he may find himself afflicted in front and rear; if he returns the way he came that will be just soket see all de-sire him to do, and see shall be content to let him alone. On the whole, though some hearts are perturbed with ex-pectations of a sudden appearance of the enemy, we think the aspect not discouraging, especially if our peo-ple will but do their duty. By all means, wherever Sherman advances, let him find nothing on which to

The Rebel Reports of the Behavior of Bherman's Troops.

[From the Columbia Guardian, Feb. 11.]

We have conversed with glanters from Bargwe

trict, who have made their way through the lines of the enemy's advance, and who represent their conduct as still thoroughly characteristic of the most brutal vandalism. The village at Buford's Bridge has been vandalism. The village at Buford's Bridge has been burned to the ground; the residences of the planters on the route which were left unoccupied were invariably destroyed. And where the families atili remained in their dwellings, they were subjected not only robbery, but to various kinds of insult. Pistols were clapped to the bosoms of women, mothers and wives; the robbers refused to wait until doors and drawers could be unlocked, broke open ruthfessly the finest cabinets and apartments, destroyed or carried off at pleasure, and, to enforce their demands, threatened the house with fire over the heads of the insabitants. They traversed the precinct, it appears, in scattered bands of fifteen or twenty, sometimes with and sometimes without any officer, the officer in general command of these predatory parties being understood to be a Colonel Robbins, who evidently and emittently deserves that the letter 0 should be restored to bis mame, as of natural right belonging to it. He was probably chosen for his work because of his merits as a picarous.

## THE SOUTH.

# Rumored Evacuation of Wil-

Heavy Concentration of Union Troops in North Carolina.

The Exchange of Prisoners Practically Resumed.

Lee Calls for a Large Force of Negroes.

They Are to be Placed at His Disposal to

be Used as He Likes, &c.,

Reported Evacuation of Wilmington.

Reported Evacuation of Wilmington.

MOVEMENTS OF THE UNION TROOPS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 16.]

It was reported yesterday morning that our troops serve concealing Wilmington. The report is not confirmed by official despatches received yesterday. The Yankee papers state that General Terry is still in the vicinity of Fort Fisher, and waiting for General Hoke to attack him. Hitherto the Yankee press have represented Terry as about to march towards Wilmington with the confident expectation of taking the place. Fort Anderson proves a more effectual obstruction than they had anticipated.

General Bakor, in command of our forces at Goldsboro, reports to the War Department that he has reason to believe the enemy are concentrating al Newtern, and that they have with them materials for repairing the railroad from Newbern to Kinston.

Scouts who came into Kinston on the night of the 11th report that Fostor is in command at Newbern, and that two thousand of the Eighteenth army corps have arrived there, making the number of troops at the post about five thousand. It is reported, and believed, in Kinston that the enemy have landed two locomotives and two transport loads of railroad iron at Morebead City. It is not apprehended in Kinston that the enemy design an early movement in that direction.

The Exchange of Prisoners.

(From the Richmond Examiner, Feb. 16.)

More than two thousand Confederate prisoners have already been returned to Richmond since the reinstitution of the exchange. The truce bost went down yesterday, expecting to bring up from Bulware's landing about one thousand more. In addition to these we learn that Colonel Mulford expected there would arrive yesterday at Fortress Monroe, as yester for exchange, two thousand of our prisoners. So far most of these men have been drawn from the prison as Foint Lookout, and the most distant prisons will probably the most populous of the Yankee prisons, and contained some time ago seven thousand Confederate prisonars. The number of Confederates in the hands of the exemy, if reduced to privates, will, we learn exceed forty thousand mog. The return of our prisoners at this time is most benedicial in a military point of view.

PRISONERS SENT TO OUR LINES FROM RICHMOND.

PRISONERS ERRY TO OUR LINES FROM RICHMOND.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Feb. 16.]
One thousand five hundred and eightefn Yankee prisoners of war, including one commissioned officer—Lieutenant Murray, Thirteenth New Hampshire regiment, a bostage who has been held in confinement for several months—were sent down the rich water sent

Operations on the Petersburg Lines.
[From the Richmond Dispatch, Peb. 16]
There was a cannonade of several hours duration on our left, near the Appointation, on Wednesday evening. With this exception nothing of moment occurred. On the Petersburg, lines picket firing has, by the totic consent of both parties, very much slackened within the past few days. The enemy are quiet in their intrenchments on Haichier's run. Throughout Monday night the rumbing of wagons and art hey was head on trans's lines, in the neighborhood of Deep Bostom. It

of their homes has greatly ripened in the public mind; and especially sloc the atrocleus ultimatum of the enemy at Hamipton Roads has fully brought home to us all the limperative peccasity of bringing but and using all the elements of force which we cam possibly command. It is also very well known that General Lee, who has accepted the powers and responsibilities of General-in-Chief, urgently calls for a large force of negroes to be placed at his disposal, to be used according to his best judgment. The country will not centure to deny to General Lee, in the present position of affairs, anything he may mak for.

judgment. The country will not verbire to dray to General Lee, in the present position of affairs, anything he may ask for.

In the President's megsage at the opening of the present session the subject was most injudiciously presented for the first time to prible attention, coupled as it was with a suggestion that emancipation might be held out to negro soldiers as a reward for faithful service. This suggestion was said, and justly said, to contain and to affirm the whole doctrine of abolition; because, if emencipation be a "reward" to negroes, then freedom is a better state for negroes than flavery. But in reply to this it was urged they think it a boon and a blessing; they will deem it a reward, and will give more zenious and faithful service in the hope of it. This implies that we, the white race, are no longer to judge for negroes, but leave them to judge for themselves; that we are not only to withdraw our care and guidance from them, but also to cheat them, by holding out to them as a blessing that which we know would prove a curse. This, therefore, is also abolition; and the worse sort of abolition, because it would be abandomment of the negro race in this country to misery and eventual extirpation; it is abolition, not negro slavery only, but of negroes also.

Such were the obvious reflections which occurred to thoughtful minds on seeing the suggestion in the President's message; and up to this time the judgments of men upon the whole measure, as a practical measure, have been disturbed by the introduction of topics which raised a question of morals and right. So far as right and morality are concerned, the position of the Southern people is and has been impregnable. They feel that the relation of master and slave has been a blessing to the slave; that they have profited the me; and what is more, they know that they, the planters of the South, are the only defence of the earth and leave their place open to miscrable white laborers working for the missimum of daily bread. Upon every ground of justice and

vation to abandon or to modify that relation, it will be under strong protest, and taking heaven and earth to witness that the blood of those simple creatures does not stain our hands.

It is also very certain that negroes are not intended for soldiers, and will never fight when they can avoid it; and that if we could but collect and bring back the absentees without leave, now on the roils of our armies, we should never have to consider the project of alloying with this base material the pure metal of our Confederate ranks.

Yet, when all this has been said, stift comes back the urgent question, how to meet the formidable and multitudinous hosts of a vindictive invader this very spring? and also the not less urgent demand of the great soldier on whom we all depend to command our armies, for power to use negroes in defence of the country. Who will take the responsibility of refusing that appeal?

Congress has now several bills before it, intended to authorize this description of force. But Congress is somewhat slow and timid this session: its legislation aims at too much exactitude in providing for every contingency and prescribing forms and restrictions; and the consequence is that time passes, and the needful thing still remains to be done, as we have a commander-in-chief—as this species of force is to be created at his express request, and as he will have the care of organizing and disposing it—something should be trusted to his discretion. And with this riew we should greatly approve the simple amendment proposed on Tuesday, enacting "that the General-in-Chief be and is hereby invested with the full power to call into the service of the may assign them, so many of the abie-bodied slaves within the Confederate States, to perform any duty to which he may assign them, so many of the abie-bodied slaves within the Confederate States, as in his judgment, the extremence of the public service may require. This makes no allusion to the future status of the slaves so to be employed. Congress cannot change it attaus, n

Would they have more stake in the country as frement than as slaves? Would they have a better cause to fight for as freemen than as slaves? If so then they would be elevated and made happier by berns made freemen. If so, here is abolitionism again—abolitionism pure and simple. Those who thus affirm either are aboliturists in their hearts, or else they can give no good reason why they are not. We desire to see this meet urgent, practical question cleared and disembarrassed of theories and arguments. The thing to be done is to take the slaves and to get their service. It would not be the first time that slaves have fought for their country; and certainly negro slaves have a far stronger interest in defending a country where they have a master and protector and an assured home than one in which they would be left exposed, without defence, to the cruci henevolence of Yankee abolitionists. If we must use nagroes in defence of our homes, left adver, but, for their sake as well as for our own, let us beware of giving any consent or adhesion to the doctrine that people of that race gain by being turned wild—or "made free," if we are to use that improper Yankee cant.

General Lee's Idea of the Situation.

General Lee's Idea of the Situation.

HE FEELS NO APPREHENSION ABOUT THE HSBUE OF THE WAR.

[From the Richmond Whig, Feb. 16.]

We copy from the Petersburg Eprest of yesterday, the following interesting correspond nee, which "speaks for itself" The declaration to which General Wise refers is a declaration in favor of the presecution of the war until our independence is achi-ved.—

HEADQUARTERS, WISE'S BRIGADE, TRENCHES REAR FATER EARC, Va., Feb. 1, 1865. To General Robert E. Lee, Commanding, &c.—

HENRY A WISE, Brigadier General.

HEADQUARFERS, ARMY NORTHERN VIGARINA,
Feb. 4, 1865.

Brigadier General HENRY A. WESE, Commanding, &c.:—
GENERAL:—I have received the declaration of principles and rights made by your brigade, and return my thanks to yourself, your officers and men. The spirit evinced in this document is the true one. If our people will sustain the noble soldiers of the confederacy and evince the same resolution and fortitude under their trials which have characterized the army, If et me apprehension about the items of this contest. I do not see how we can, by any compromise or negotiation, abute aught of can, by any compromise or negotiation, abate aught of the rights claimed in this admirable declaration without a currender of the liberties we derived from our ances-

## SHENANDOAH.

Cavalry Expedition Up the Valley. . .

THE CAROLINA IRON WORKS DESTROYED.

Hot Skirmishing with the Rebel Cavalry, 24.,

Mr. Charles H. Farrell's Despatches.

iron after it was worked to Staunton, from thence per shot and shell for the rebel army. The iren was conridan placed the matter in the hands of Major Gene ral Merritt, temporary commander of the cavalry corps who at once devised an expedition to destroy the reb

For this duty a detachment of three hundred picked men of the First and Sixth regiments of Michigan cavalry, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell, of the first named regiment, were detailed. The and left camp near this town at dusk on the evening of the 15th inst., proceeding up the main valley pike, over roads covered with snow, so that it was with difficulty the correct route could be pursued. The com mand passed through Kernstown, over Hog run, through 19th of October, crossed Cedar creek, passed through Strasburg, Fisher's Hill and Round Top, over Tom's Bank, Pew's creek and through Woodstock, all without molestation, until they reached a point within three miles of Edinburg.

The troops marched all night. Flankers, and advance and rear guards were thrown out, and everything kept well in hand to prevent surprise or sudden attack. point above named was reached at three o'clock, A. M., when the advance guard came to the Shenandoah river. and were fired upon by a rebel picket stationed on the

when the advance guard came to the Shenandoah river, and were fired upon by a rebel picket stationed on the opposite side, near the bridge. Our troops seen discovered that the planks had been taken up from the bridge. The river was high, and not fordable, so that planks were speedily procured, the bridge repaired, and our troops crossed, the enemy's pickets, which had gathered in considerable numbers, disputing the passage by a constant fusilade.

On reaching the south side of the river a new obstacle presented itself, in the shape of a strong iron wire fence thrown across the road, and so obscure that it was not discovered until our troopers' horses ran against it. The removal of these obstacles occupied but a short time, as the troops moved with alacrity and good will. The command then pushed on, hoping to surprise the reserve or main body of the rebels, which were supposed to be within a half mile of the river. Our troops push do not a rapid trot, proceeded three miles beyond the river, but the main body of the rebels did not discover themselves. Three of our men were wounded, one of them mortally, while repairing the bridge.

Our troops remained at Edinburg until eleven A. M. on the 16th, gathering such information as might conduce to the success of the expedition.

The command was then divided, one-half returning down the Valley pike, and the other half proceeding through Fort Gap, between Three Top Mountain and Peaked Ridge, to a point on Water Lick creek, to the Carolina Iron Furnace—the objective point of the expedition. The furnace—the objective point of the expedition. The furnace—the objective point of the expedition of iron ore and smelted iron were found on the ground. The hands at work at the furnace field at the approach of our troops. The buildings and machinery for carrying on the works were destroyed. This accomplished, our second party of troops returned home by the way of Big Fortvalley. On the route rebel generalla and detachments of regular troops were seen and engaged by our troops. A num

detachment that evening, near Cedar creek, on the valley road.

The detachment that returned by the valley pike, accompanying which was Captain Martindale, of General Torbert's staff, and Lieutenant Baker, of General Merritt's staff, were not so fortunate. After they left Edinburg they were pursued by a squadron of one hundred rebel cavairy soldiers. At times they attacked our rear guard vigorously; when our men would stand to repel the attack the rebels would hesitate at our fire. At one time they charged between our main body and our rear guard of fourteen men, among whom was Captain Martindale. Our men, seeing their safety was in their determination, charged the rebels and rejoined the main force.

Passing through Woodstock—which was done after

determination, charged the rebots and rybined the minimum force.

Passing through Woodstock—which was done after dark—our troops expured quite a number of horses. Our troops reached their camp after dark last night.

The result of the expedition may be summed up as follows—The destruction of a valuable tron furnace, from which the rebels were getting out from sixty to one hundred tons of iron per day for military purposes, capturing fifteen rebel soldiers, killing and wounding several others.

Our loss was trifling. Captain Martindale's orderly was captured. Our wounded were brought into camp.

Our troops behaved with gallantry, and it was owing to this fact that the expedition was successful. The time occupied in accompishing the work was a little over twenty four hours, and the distance travelled nearly seventy miles.

twenty-four hours, and the discount from the wait bedy seventy miles. Some of the rebel prisoners report that the main body of the rebels are absent on furlough, with orders to report to their commands by March I.

Nine guerillas were captured last night near the Winchester and Marinsburg pike, north of Stevenson's depot. Their horses and equipments were also captured. The credit of the affair belongs to the regular cavalry brigade.

It is snowing in this section of the valley. WINCHESTER, Va., Feb. 18-0:30 A. M.

A party of our scouts has just returned from an expe dition up the valley, bringing with them quite a number of prisoners, among whom is Colonel Thos. Massey, of the Tweifth Virginia rebel cavalry,